rocks in considerable abundance. *Rubus Chamæmorus* was plentiful on the lower parts of the hill, while *Vaccinium Oxycoccus* occurred sparingly. Dr. Balfour corroborated Mr. Stark's account of the uninteresting character of Ben Wyvis as a botanical field.

Mr. Stark exhibited portions of the wood of *Tanghinia venenifera*, a poisonous tree, native of Madagascar; *Sterculia platanifolia*; *Bombax Ceiba*, the silk cotton-tree; and leaves of *Theophrasta Jussieui*. The specimens, which were of considerable dimensions, were grown in this country.

Specimens of fossil earth, containing Diatomaceæ, found in Aberdeenshire, were sent by Dr. Dickie, and exhibited under the microscope.

Mr. James M'Nab exhibited a flowering plant of *Meconopsis aculeata*, from the garden of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, seeds of which were received from the Himalaya mountains by the late Sheriff Speirs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME VANESSA.

In reply to our correspondent who inquires respecting the origin of the name *Vanessa*, first given, we believe, by Fabricius to a species, and afterwards to one of those genera into which he divided the genus *Papilio* of Linnæus, we have no doubt he must have been indebted for it to Swift's well-known poem Cadenus and Vanessa, the former appellation being an anagram of Decanus, whilst by the latter the poet designated the victim of her unhappy attachment to him, Esther (or Hessy) Vanhomrigh.

In the great demand for new names which Fabricius had to assign to the novelties which he was occupied in describing, after having availed himself of classical mythology and poetry, and scripture history, we find evidence, in the names *Gonerilla*, *Cordelia*, and perhaps *Morna*, that he sometimes had recourse also to the names occurring in the literature of our own country, where he was long engaged in examining the Banksian and other cabinets.

M. Sodoffsky has sported a very superfluous critical conjecture (Bull. Soc. Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou, 1837) that the name should be written *Phanessa*, as if it were derived from the Greek *Φάνης*. But it can never be supposed, that if such had been the intention of Fabricius, he would have written *Vanessa*.—R. T.

LUCERNARIA FASCICULARIS, *Fleming*.

The Rev. Z. M. Hamilton, of Bressay, Zetland, has ascertained that this beautiful zoophyte feeds upon the young *Littorina littorea*. In a letter to Dr. Neill of the 3rd of March, he writes, "I discovered that it feeds on small wilks, which it, by means of its arms and feelers, puts into its stomach, so many even as four or five at a time, and when the meat is fully extracted the shells are rejected."

In a subsequent communication (20th of March) to Dr. Neill, Mr. Hamilton says,—"With regard to the food which this creature seems

so much to enjoy, that there may be no mistake, I enclose the shell of a wilk (a small specimen of *Littorina littorea*) which I gave it two days ago, and which was today rejected in the empty state it now is.

"It is most interesting to watch the animal's movements; every day it appears in a different form, and developes new beauties. I almost think it is getting *tame*, for it does not now shrink from observation as it did at first, and readily clutches upon its food. When more than one wilk is given to it, it retains, by means of its feelers, those it cannot at once consume,—thus making them wait their turn, which comes so soon as the first taken are rejected. I once saw four or five wilks, of the size of the shell now sent, in its stomach at one time."—GEORGE JOHNSTON.

On the Organization and Development of Linguatula (Pentastoma, Rudd.), *accompanied with the description of a new species from the Abdominal Cavity of the Mandrill.* By P. J. VAN BENEDEN.

Among the intestinal worms, the order of the *Acanthotheci* is one of those which most requires further anatomical and physiological investigation*. I am happy to be able to fill up some of the principal gaps in their natural history.

I found in a Mandrill (*Cynocephalus Mormon*), in some cysts formed by the peritoneum, several *Linguatulæ* or *Pentastomæ*, very remarkable from their singular form. This is the first African animal in which *Linguatulæ* have been observed. The species is totally different from all hitherto known, and I have called it *Linguatula Diesingii*, in honour of the celebrated helminthologist of Vienna, M. Diesing.

This species has a white cylindrical annulated body, obtuse at both extremities and as broad in front as behind; there is considerable space between the rings, of which there are only twenty; they suddenly cease posteriorly. The mouth is rounded and situated on the same line as the four hooks; the body is fifteen millimetres in length and two millimetres in breadth.

I found several specimens of the *Linguatula proboscidea* in a Boa; they were fortunately alive, which enabled me to submit all their parts to a microscopic examination, and I have been enabled to decide the following points:—

1. These worms have the sexes separate, contrary to the opinion

* M. Valenciennes, in the beautiful report made to the French Academy of Sciences on M. Blanchard's Memoir on the Organization of Worms, stated,—"It should not be forgotten that the minute and delicate anatomy of these animals can be made only on perfectly fresh individuals. One of the most important genera to examine is *Linguatula*. I will just mention to the Academy, to show how much the meeting with certain intestinal worms is due to chance, that the only specimens of this very rare genus deposited in the rich collection of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, were presented by M. Dumeril, who extracted them from a tumour of the nose of a dog more than thirty years ago; and that notwithstanding the most assiduous researches, no other specimens have again been met with in Paris."—*Comptes Rendus*, June 14, 1847.